

important as the adjustment for earlier payment of claims which is now made by so many actuaries. If the premium income of an old-established office, doing an ordinary business, is £300,000, the reserve according to a net premium valuation by the Institute tables at 3 per-cent interest, would be about £3,000,000. Two months' net premium income would be rather more than £40,000, while the adjustment for payment of claims immediately upon proof of death and title would probably be somewhat less.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES CHATHAM.

Edinburgh,
7 July 1893.

CONSUMPTIVE FAMILY HISTORY.

To the Editor of the Journal of the Institute of Actuaries.

SIR,—I must apologize for trespassing further on your space in connection with the above subject, but as Mr. Manly has evidently misunderstood an expression in my letter which appeared in your January issue, I hope you will allow me the privilege of making myself clear. As Mr. Manly says, his paper shows clearly that the childbirth cases were kept in a separate class by themselves, and were not combined with the consumptive cases. This is self-evident, and I had not the slightest intention of implying anything else. I referred only to the general assertion that "Death in childbirth is now generally considered to arise from consumption where no other evidence is forthcoming", and pointed out that, as Dr. Lyon holds such strong views in regard to this class of "doubtful" cases, it is quite possible that he holds similar views with regard to other doubtful causes of death (such as "change of life", "exposure", "grief", "unknown", "fever", &c.), and that, if so, he may perhaps have included in the consumptive classes a number of lives which have not in reality a consumptive family history at all, although their record may be far from clear. The rule laid down for his guidance was: "Supposing that case were to come before you to-day, would you consider the cause of death there recorded to be primarily consumption?" This certainly allows a margin for personal judgment, and as cases of uncertain cause of death are more likely to occur among brothers and sisters than among parents, this factor would not work evenly on the two classes, and if any large number of such cases have been included, a comparison between the two groups would hardly be fair.

Yours truly,

T. B. MACAULAY.

Montreal,
9 March 1893.